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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Yazoo & Holt Collier *National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2011 -2012*



This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing on Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. These regulations supplement regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations and applicable State regulations. Violation of Refuge or State regulations may result in confiscation of Refuge Permit in addition to prosecution.

Request permits and additional information from:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
595 Yazoo Refuge Road
Hollandale, MS 38748
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Yazoo & Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuges

T R Complex Refuges are located south of State Highway 82 in the South Delta of Mississippi in what is known as the Lower Mississippi River Valley. The refuges are scattered from just south of Greenville, down towards Vicksburg, over to Yazoo City, and back up to Greenwood. The complex consists of seven refuges, Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges.

Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge is the oldest National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Mississippi. Yazoo NWR was established in 1936 as one of the links in a chain of refuges that provide for the wintering needs of ducks and geese in the Mississippi Flyway. It is located in the heart of Mississippi's Delta Region 25 miles south of Greenville, and five air miles east of the Mississippi River in Washington County. This refuge is home to a healthy population of American alligators, migratory waterfowl, wading birds, state record whitetail deer, squirrel, rabbit and raccoon. Total refuge acreage is 12,941.

Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge was established in January of 2004 as part of the Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. The refuge is made up of some 1400 acres of FmHA transfer properties and is located some five miles east of Hollandale, north of State Highway 12 and west of the Big Sunflower River in the Darlove, Mississippi area.

General Provisions and Access State Hunting License(s) and Regulations

Persons utilizing the refuge are required to have in their possession appropriate State licenses and stamps. Unless further restricted by refuge regulations, State bag, possession limits and regulations apply. Please consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Park Regulations at www.mdwfp.com for details.

TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit

Any person 16 years of age and older utilizing the refuge for consumptive use (hunting and fishing) must possess the T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit which certifies they understand and will comply with Refuge regulations contained in this brochure. This permit is nontransferable, non-refundable and is also **required in order to be eligible for Limited Draw Hunts.** Applications are available at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or can be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. **Applications must include name as listed on license, mailing address, telephone number, and a money order or check payable to USFWS which includes \$15 for each permit requested.** Permits are available at Panther Swamp NWR, 12595 MS Hwy 149, Yazoo City, MS 39194 and Yazoo NWR, 595 Yazoo Refuge Road, Hollandale, MS 38748. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30AM – 4:00PM. Permits are valid August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012.

Limited Draw Permits

Limited Draw Hunts are selected by a random computer drawing. Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2011. A valid Annual Public Use Permit is required in order to apply and may be purchased prior to or upon submission of a Limited Draw application.

Applications must include name of each applicant. Designate only one hunt per application. Youth applicants must be designated and include their Hunter Safety number on the application. Group applications must be signed by at least one applicant. Duplicate applications will be rejected. Applications are available at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or can be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper to Yazoo NWR, 595 Yazoo Refuge Road, Hollandale, MS 38748. Limited Draw Permits will be mailed within two weeks after the drawing is complete. If you do not return your limited draw hunt permit with requested information upon completion of the hunt, you will not be allowed to apply for a limited draw hunt on TR Complex the following year.

User Information Card

Each day before hunting or fishing, all participants must obtain a User Information Card available at the Visitor Information Stations (see maps) and follow the printed instructions on the card. All harvested game must be recorded and cards submitted daily. Self service check stations are provided (see map). For each antler-less deer, please record weight, lactation and date harvested. For each buck, please record weight, main beam length for each antler, basal circumference for each antler, inside spread and date harvested. Also record hoof sloughing, if present.

General Regulations

The following acts are prohibited:

- Operation of vehicles on “Closed” roads
- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Hunting in designated closed or no hunting areas
- The use of artificial light, including vehicle headlights, to locate or take any animal except as authorized for raccoon hunting
- Use or possession of toxic shot, including buckshot
- Use or possession of climbing spikes or hunting from a tree which has metal objects driven or screwed into it
- Use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting
- Use of plastic flagging tape
- Use or possession of alcohol
- Camping
- Fires
- Horses and mules
- Organized drives for deer or hogs
- Baiting and/or feeding wildlife

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local

law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

Closed Areas and Times

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into a 100’ zone along either side of pipeline or power line rights-of-way, designated roads, trails or around parking lots (see maps).

Vehicles must not obstruct roads, trails, gates, turn rows, field access ramps or fire lanes and must be operated only on designated roads (see maps).

Temporary or permanent closure of Refuge areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and not be in this brochure. Please check for on-the-ground signage and/or updates at check stations and entry points.

All other public activities on the refuge are prohibited during firearm deer hunts.

All land managed under T R Complex, including refuge parking areas and boat ramps, are closed 1 1/2 hours after sunset until 4 am. This regulation prohibits the use of Refuge Parking Areas or launching of a boat into refuge waters from 1½ hours after sunset until 4 am. Refuge hours of operation do not apply to those actively participating in refuge raccoon hunting seasons. Yazoo NWR electronic gates are open 4 A.M.- 8 P.M.

ATVs and Boats

Hunters may retrieve game only with the use of game carts or manual dragging up to the point to where vehicles are allowed by Refuge regulations. **ATVs are not allowed.**

Boats left unattended for more than 72 hours will be considered abandoned and will be confiscated. Motorized boats are authorized only in Silver Lake Bayou.

Youth Hunters

Any hunter under the age of 16 must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate and be in the immediate presence of an adult 21years of age or older at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit, unless applying for the Deer Muzzleloader Limited Draw Hunt.

Hunter Orange

Each person must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline while on the refuge during the rabbit with dog and refuge designated firearm seasons for deer, and for all hunting on Farmers Home Administration tracts (FmHA) during state deer season. Ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted for hunting the following: raccoon, squirrel, and the February rabbit hunts. Retrievers are permitted while hunting migratory birds (dove, youth waterfowl, and snow goose).

Other Regulations

Violations of refuge regulations may be cause for loss of hunting/fishing privileges.

Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, bobcat and nutria may be taken during refuge hunts within the State season and limit for each species with weapons authorized for the specified refuge hunt.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Deer Hunt Regulations

Treestands:

Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on each refuge within T R Complex. Identifiable information must be displayed on all portable stands, tripods and blinds. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Stands or blinds may be placed 48 hours prior to a hunt and must be removed within 48 hours after each designated hunt. All stands without proper identification are subject to seizure.

While climbing a tree, installing a stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a fall arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

Deer Harvest Check-in

Deer harvested must be checked out at the self-service check stations (see maps) following the instructions provided, prior to leaving the refuge.

Other Regulations

Hunting within or adjacent to brushy fields and tree plantations less than 5 feet in height must be from a stand a minimum of 10 feet above ground. Deer hunting in agricultural or open fields is prohibited.

Hogs may be taken only with weapons legal for each deer hunt.

Small Game (Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Legal Hunting Weapons: All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot. Small game may also be hunted with .17, .22, and .22-mag caliber rim-fire rifles.

Dogs: See general regulations.

Refuge Hunting Seasons

Yazoo NWR Migratory Birds (T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Dove: *State September Season.*

Open refuge wide except area closed to hunting.

Youth Waterfowl: January 21-22, 28-29, 2012 - All inquiries regarding special permit must be made December 1-30, 2011. Eligible youths must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate. Youth must be accompanied by one adult at least 21 years of age. Youth must remain in the immediate presence of that adult at all times. Adult may supervise only one youth per day and is responsible for any violations the youth may incur. Adult will be allowed to hunt but must possess a valid Refuge Annual Use Permit to do so. All youth hunters and accompanying adults must check-in and check-out at Deer Check Station. State and federal regulations apply.

Snow Goose: *Open beginning February 1 during the State Light Goose Conservation Order. Contact the Refuge office for details.*

Deer:

Yazoo NWR Special Buck Tags: To effectively manage harvest and population numbers, the Mississippi Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is authorized only for Yazoo NWR. A limited number of Special Buck Tags, allowing the hunter to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler, will be available for each archery and muzzleloader hunt. These tags do not count toward daily or seasonal bag limits. Hunter participation and data collection is crucial for success of this program. If interested please indicate on hunt application.

Archery

October 1 – November 20, 2011

January 2 – 15, 2012

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least **15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 inches.** Either sex deer. Legal archery equipment only, see State Regulations.

Firearm Deer Hunts

If drawn, this permit is required to be in your possession while hunting during the designated hunt. These Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Possession of the Refuge Annual Public Use Permit is required. Only drawn permittees are allowed on the Refuge during Limited Draw hunts with the exception of Yazoo Senior Citizen Limited Draw Permittees are allowed to have one non-hunter assistant and Yazoo NWR Youth Hunt Permittees are required to have one adult supervisor.

Youth Deer Gun (Limited Draw)

November 26 or 27, 2011

Hunt bag limit: One buck and one doe. Youths under age 16 are eligible but required to possess documentation of completed Hunter Safety Course. Youth may apply for only one day of the hunt. One adult at least 21 years of age must accompany each youth. Only youth may hunt. Adult may supervise only one youth per day, is responsible for any violations by the youth they accompany, and must possess a refuge brochure. All hunters and supervisors must check-in and check-out at Deer Check Station. *Legal Hunting Weapons:* Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzle loading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and legal archery equipment.

Muzzleloader/Bow (Limited Draw)

December 3-4, 6-7, 10-11, 2011

Daily bag limit: One buck and one doe. Hunt bag limit: One buck and two does. You may apply for only one of the two day muzzleloader hunts. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least **15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 inches.** Up to two applicants and must be postmarked by September 30, 2011.

Legal Hunting Weapons: Muzzleloaders loaded with a single ball are allowed. No breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are allowed. Legal archery equipment is also permitted.

Senior Citizen Deer Gun (Limited Draw)

December 17-18, 2011

Daily bag limit: One buck and one doe. Hunt bag limit: One buck and two does. Senior citizens, 65 years of age and older, may apply for this hunt. Yazoo Senior Citizen Limited Draw Permittees are allowed to have one non-hunter assistant. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches OR one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Up to two applicants and must be postmarked by September 30, 2011.

Legal Hunting Weapons: Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzle loading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and legal archery equipment.

Turkey: *closed*

Small Game

Squirrel:

October 15 - November 20, 2011

February 1 - 28, 2012

Rabbit without Dogs:

October 15 - November 20, 2011

Rabbit with/without Dogs:

February 1-28, 2012

Raccoon with Dogs: January 27-29, 2012, February 3-4, 2012.
Dogs are required.

Holt Collier NWR

Deer

Archery: October 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012. Either sex deer. Legal archery equipment only, see state regulations.

Muzzleloader: December 2 – 15, 2011. Either sex deer.

Muzzleloaders loaded with a single ball are allowed. No breechloading firearms of any type or caliber are allowed. Legal archery equipment is also permitted.

Small Game

Rabbit with/without Dogs: February 1- 28, 2012

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Tracts

The Brown Tract (east of the Sunflower River) may be hunted for deer archery and rabbit. TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit required. Contact Complex Headquarters for maps and additional information. All visitors must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline at all times during hunting season.

Deer Archery

October 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012. Either sex deer.

Rabbit without Dogs- October 15, 2011 - February 28, 2012

Rabbit with/without Dogs - February 1-28, 2012